

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.(Original) A method of blasting or breaking rock or other materials by means of pressure/shock waves generated in a tamped drill hole, the method including forming a stemming plug by holding a stemming material in a container at a predetermined spacing from a surface by a bottom of the drill hole by means of a frangible spacer abutting said surface and corresponding to said predetermined spacing and being connected to the container, the container and the spacer forming a sacrificial blasting accessory; locating a pressure generating or shock wave generating substance adjacent the container remote from the bottom; initiating said pressure generating or shock wave generating substance to cause the stemming material to be displaced at speed toward the bottom, characterized in that the container is of a defined volume and includes a openable and closable closure and by the initial method step of filling, in use, the container with a correspondingly defined volume of stemming material and closing the container by means of the openable and closable closure.

2.(Currently Amended.) A method of blasting or breaking rock or other materials as claimed in Claim 1 which is performed in a drill hole which extends downwardly, in which the blasting accessory has a profile slightly smaller than a diameter of the drill hole, the method

further including causing the blasting accessory to fall under gravity toward ~~said surface~~ the bottom.

3. (Currently Amended.) A method of blasting or breaking rock or other materials as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2~~, in which a dilatable and shrinkable seal formation is provided in conjunction with the container, the method further including blocking the drill hole by means of said dilatable and shrinkable seal formation when the seal formation is in position, locating a pressure or shock wave generating substance at said position on the drill hole, and checking and supporting said shock wave generating substance by the seal formation.

4. (Currently Amended.) A method of blasting or breaking rock or other materials as claimed in Claim 3 in which the seal formation ~~is in the form of~~ comprises an inverted skirt, the method ~~including~~ further includes flaring the skirt to cause sealing by pressure exerted by or via the pressure or shock wave generating substance.

5. (Currently Amended.) A method of blasting or breaking rock or other materials as claimed in ~~any one of Claim 1 to Claim 4~~, which includes adjusting an effective length of the spacer in accordance with a desired spacing from said surface.

6. (Currently Amended.) A blasting accessory suitable for use in a drill hole, the accessory including

a container for holding stemming material in the form of a plug;

a spacer connected to the container and extending away from the container a predetermined distance, the spacer having a free end remote from the container for abutting a surface formed by a bottom of ~~[[a]]~~ the drill hole in use; characterized in that the container has a defined volume and includes an openable and closable closure to allow the container to be filled, in use, with a correspondingly defined volume of the stemming material and to be closed by means of the closure.

7. (Original) A blasting accessory as claimed in Claim 6 which is of generally round tubular shape, the spacer being in the form of a tube having an open free end, and a vent hole remote from the free end.

8. (Original) A blasting accessory as claimed in Claim 7 in which the container is tubular and fits spigot-socket fashion over or within an end of the spacer.

9. (Original) A blasting accessory as claimed in Claim 8 in which one end portion of the container is a securing end portion and is in the form of an open-ended sleeve fitting over an end of the spacer.

10. (Original) A blasting accessory as claimed in Claim 9 in which an opposed end portion of the container is a container end portion and is closable to hold the stemming material, the opposed end portions of the container being divided by means of an internal shoulder arranged to abut the spacer to set the depth of overlapping and thus the volume of the container.

11. (Currently Amended.) A blasting accessory ~~as claimed in any one of Claim 6 to Claim 10 inclusive~~, which ~~includes~~ further comprises a deformable seal formation in the form of a rim for sealing against an inner periphery of the drill hole to form a plunger for holding a pressure generating or shock wave generating substance adjacent the container remote from the space.

12.(Original) A blasting accessory as claimed in Claim 11 in which the deformable rim is in the form of an inverted skirt having longitudinal slits to render it deformable or to facilitate deformation, in respect of both shrinking and dilating.